

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

The application has been amended as follows:

In the specification, on page 1, in the second paragraph in the 2nd line, after "March 26, 2003", insert --now US Patent No. 7148333--.

In the specification, on page 1, in the ~~third~~ ^{second} paragraph in the ~~second~~ ^{third} line, after "Serial No. 09/462,941" insert --now US Patent No. 6,608,183--.

The title has been amended to read as follows:

-- Cysteine variants of alpha interferon-2--.

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The rejection of claims 44-70 under 35 U.S.C. 35 § 112, first paragraph is withdrawn in view of the amendatory material received on 02/22/2007 which provides evidence by working example that both of the claimed cysteine variants have significant biological activity that is similar to that of the wild-type alpha interferon-2.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably